

From: [REDACTED]
To: Billington, Tracie; scouch@waterboards.ca.gov;
CC:
Subject: SVIRWM
Date: Thursday, February 08, 2007 1:10:55 AM
Attachments:

I read the BEC bulletin about this Plan, and it is foolhardy at best.

I have lived in the Butte College area for over 27 years now. With development in the foothills, I have watched the water level in my well drop over the years. I am faced with spending at least \$5000 to deepen my well. This area is within the Tuscan aquifer, not the Sacramento River Basin. We depend upon ground water recharge. And as demand has increased, the water supply has decreased. I am not the only one out here facing this problem. I know other long time residents out here who have faced the same problem. Our water is not unlimited.

I wanted to write to you and speak up to say that I share and support the assessment of the BEC's 4 points in this matter:

1. Do not fund or partially fund the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (SVIRWM) Implementation Proposal. The majority of the implementation projects are detrimental to Butte County's residents, economy, and the environment (20+ production wells tapping into the aquifer). The SVIRWM Plan was developed without full input from the entities that will be most impacted by the projects and strategies, such as the cities of Chico and Oroville, as well as those with private wells, and the public at large.

2. The Northern California Water Association (NCWA) and its Joint Powers Authority (JPA) do not represent Butte County nor does the SVIRWM Plan represent the public's interest. The Plan, which is necessary to apply for implementation grants, fails as a "grassroots, bottom-up program comprised of many projects, plans, and partnerships with common objectives and a long-term vision." The SVIRWM Plan should be rejected and implementation funding denied due to the absence of a genuine, regional plan.

3. The SVIRWM Plan failed to provide an accurate assessment of the existing

conditions of the aquifer, surface and subsurface hydrologic flow processes, and estimates of conditions under pro-longed droughts. Until this level of analysis is conducted, funding the preliminary projects that are necessary for extraction and storage projects is premature.

4. There is not a water shortage in California as claimed by NCWA's JPA, the applicant for the SVIRWM Implementation Proposal. The California Water Plan, released in 2005, indicates that water demand will decline in the next 25 years even with population increases (see link below). Using the same model the state used for its projections, the Pacific Institute found that California could actually decrease water use by 20% over the next 25 years while maintaining a vibrant economy.

Mary L. Bailey

